

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 01630 230413Z

11

ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 RSC-01 DRC-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 ISO-00 ARA-16 /039 W

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R 230315Z FEB 74 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 303

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1630

SECTO 23

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CO, XM

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S BILATERAL DISCUSSION WITH COLOMBIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER

1. THE SECRETARY HAD A 40 MINUTE MEETING WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER VAZQUEZ LATE AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 20. SECRETARY
WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH AND LITTLE
(ARA). VAZQUEZ WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR BOTERO,
AMBASSADOR CAMACHO (DEPUTY OAS REPRESENTATIVE), DR. ALVAREZ
RESTREPO, AND DR. LOZANO SIMONELLI. BULK OF CONVERSATION
RELATED TO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SECRETARY'S PUBLIC SPEECH
AND PRIVATE REMARKS TO BE MADE AT CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 21
AND VAZQUEZ' REMARKS, SPEAKING FOR LATIN AMERICAN
FOREIGN MINISTERS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S QUESTION, VAZQUEZ SAID
THERE WOULD BE SOME SUBSTANCE IN HIS STATEMENT SINCE
HE WILL PRESENT THE LATIN AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW WITH RESPECT
TO THE PROBLEM OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT. HE SAID HE WOULD MENTION
TRADE AND MONETARY MATTERS IN A VERY GENERAL WAY. VAZQUEZ
SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT RAISE ANY SPECIFIC MATTERS BUT WANTED
TO INTRODUCE THE LATIN AMERICAN VIEW -- THEIR NEEDS AND THE
FAILURE OF AMERICAN COOPERATION UP TO THIS TIME. HE EMPHASIZED
HE WOULD BE SPEAKING FOR THE OTHER MINISTERS. IF HE WERE
TO SPEAK FOR COLOMBIA, HE WOULD MENTION COFFEE, BUT HE WOULD
NOT BE MENTIONING COFFEE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 01630 230413Z

3. THE SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE COMMENTING ON THE EIGHT POINT AGENDA IN THE PRIVATE MEETINGS AND ASKED VAZQUEZ IF IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO MENTION THESE MATTERS, THOUGH MORE BRIEFLY, IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT. VAZQUEZ RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT HE WANTED IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT TO OFFER MORE THAN GENERALITIES SINCE OTHERWISE THE PRESS AND OTHERS WOULD SAY THAT THIS CONFERENCE WAS "THE USUAL THING" AND "JUST SO MUCH TALK". VAZQUEZ RECONFIRMED HIS OPINION THAT THE SECRETARY SHOULD MAKE SOME OF THESE POINTS IN THE PUBLIC SESSION.

4. VAZQUEZ SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THERE SHOULD BE A DECLARATION, THOUGH A SHORT ONE, ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE. THE SECRETARY AGREED. VAZQUEZ WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE DECLARATION SHOULD BE PERHAPS TWO PAGES OR MORE. AFTER A REFERENCE TO THE BEGINNING OF A NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND LATIN AMERICA, THE DECLARATION SHOULD MENTION TWO OR THREE SPECIFIC POINTS OF UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED AND A LIST OF SPECIAL PROBLEMS THAT SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN THE FUTURE. THE SECRETARY AGREED GENERALLY SAYING THERE SHOULD BE A WORK PROGRAM LAID OUT FOR THE COMING MONTHS. VAZQUEZ SAID THAT HE HAD BROACHED TO RABASA HIS IDEA OF A SIX MAN (FIVE LATIN AND ONE US) DRAFTING COMMITTEE TO WORK ON THE DECLARATION. THE SECRETARY AGREED AND VAZQUEZ SAID THAT HE WOULD PROPOSE THAT THE FOLLOWING DAY.

5. THE SECRETARY SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOME MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE TWO AGENDA POINTS SUGGESTED BY THE US. THESE ARE GLOBAL THEMES, AND HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO SHARE OUR THOUGHTS ON THESE ITEMS WITH THE LA FONMINS. SECRETARY SAID WE ARE NOT SEEKING AN ENDORSEMENT OF HIS PRESENTATION AND MINISTERS WOULD BE FREE TO COMMENT OR NOT AS THEY WISH.

6. SUMMARIZING US ATTITUDE TOWARD CONFERENCE, SECRETARY SAID WE ARE VERY SERIOUS ABOUT OUR LATIN AMERICAN INITIATIVE AND THAT STRENGTH OF OUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION INDICATES THIS. SECRETARY TERMED CONFERENCE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BRING ABOUT A CHANGE AND A NEW RELATIONSHIP.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 01630 230413Z

7. NO BILATERAL ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED. VAZQUEZ WAS GLOWING IN HIS COMPLIMENTS ABOUT THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH IN PANAMA AND HIS ADDRESS AT THE UN IN OCTOBER.
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, MEETING AGENDA, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, AMITY, SECTO 23, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MEXICO01630
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740213/aaaaamgf.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S BILATERAL DISCUSSION WITH COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER
TAGS: PFOR, CO, XM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005